

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 11/02/2011.
2. The objections and rejections not addressed below are deemed withdrawn.
3. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office Action.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

4. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/2/2011 has been entered.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

5. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

IN THE CLAIMS

- a. In claim 23, line 1: Insert the word "number" between the words "the" and "average."

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Benjamin Berkowitz on 12/2/2011.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-13, and 23 are allowed.
7. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closest prior art of record is Hirano et al, WO 2002/091507. Hirano discloses a block copolymer comprising an acid-containing hydrophilic segment which is an aromatic polyether sulfone and an acid-free hydrophobic segment which is an aromatic polyether sulfone. The prior art does not teach nor does it fairly suggest the unexpected improvements in proton conductivity obtained from a block copolymer defined by the claimed combination of limitations of an acid-containing block and a substantially acid-free block having the claimed structures, wherein said blocks are present in the claimed ratio.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeffrey Lenihan whose telephone number is (571)270-

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5452. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30-5:00 PM, and on alternate Fridays from 7:30-4:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James J. Seidleck can be reached on 571-272-1078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Irina S Zemel/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1765

/Jeffrey Lenihan/
Examiner, Art Unit 1765

/JL/